

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Decision on Petition, Applicants have the following comments.

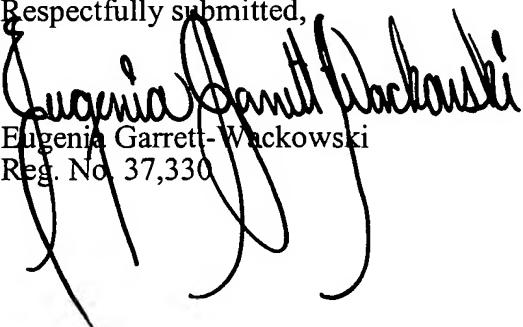
The present application is a continuation of Application No. 09/809,657, now U.S. Patent No. 6,734,022 B2, issued May 11, 2004. Applicants' 21 replacement sheets of drawings mailed on March 1, 2004 were taken from Publication No. US 2001/0014479 A1. These drawings are the same as issued in Patent No. 6,734,022 B2 and should be incorporated into the present application. These drawings introduce no new matter. Further, Applicants' drawings originally submitted with the patent application were copied in error.

Concerning the missing abstract, Applicants responded to this point in the Response to Notice to File Corrected Application Papers. However, in view of the Decision on Petition, Applicants have incorporated the Abstract into this Preliminary Amendment for the Examiner's convenience. Again, no new matter has been introduced.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

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